

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 13141 291254Z

ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FAA-00 EB-08 SSO-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /029 W

-----003400 291308Z /45

O R 291225Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3682

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 13141

PASS NTSB

ROME FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IN

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIR INDIA BOEING 747 ACCIDENT IN NEW DELHI

1. A BOEING 747 OPERATING AS FLIGHT AIR INDIA 123 ABORTED ITS TAKEOFF FROM NEW DELHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (PALAM) EARLY IN THE MORNING OF AUGUST 29, AND RAN OFF THE RUNWAY. ALL PASSENGERS AND CREW WERE EVACUATED FROM THE PLANE SAFELY. AIRPORT HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL OPERATIONS ALTHOUGH PORTION OF MAIN RUNWAY IS CLOSED AND SOME NAVIGATIONAL AIDS NOT OPERATING.

2. REPORT FOLLOWS IN ACCORDANCE WITH 10 FAM 521.7.

(A) BOEING 747, OWNED AND REGISTERED IN INDIA.

(B) AIRCRAFT OWNED AND OPERATED BY AIR INDIA.

(C) AUGUST 29, 1978, AROUND 0630 LOCAL

(D) AIRCRAFT WAS TAKING OFF FROM PALAM AIRPORT, DELHI, ENROUTE TO FRANKFURT GERMANY.

(E) AIRCRAFT HIT SOFT GROUND WHEN OVERRUNNING RUNWAY ON TAKE-OFF ATTEMPT.

(F) PLANE WAS FULLY LOADED. NO DEATHS AND NO INJURIES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NEW DE 13141 291254Z

(G) DIFFICULTY WITH ENGINE 3 ON STARBOARD SIDE CAUSED PILOT TO ABORT THE TAKEOFF, ACCORDING TO AIR SAFETY DIRECTOR V. CHELLAPPA. WHEN PLANE RAN OFF THE RUNWAY, LEFT WING GEAR WAS SHEARED OFF AND BODY GEAR SANK INTO MUD. RIGHT WING APPARENTLY NOT DAMAGED, ALTHOUGH SOME IMPACT ON ENGINE HOUSING ON BOTH SIDES. CHELLAPPA UNDERSTANDS THAT COMPANY WILL CONTRACT WITH BOEING TO

MAKE REPAIRS. ACCORDING TO UNOFFICIAL SOURCES, TWO ENGINES OF A AIRCRAFT HAD STALLED OR FAILED DURING TAKEOFF RUN AND FIRE WARNING HAD COME ON. DGCA WILL, ACCORDING TO CHELLAPPA, ALSO BE INVESTIGATING BRAKE FUNCTIONING AND OTHER ASPECTS OF ACCIDENT.

(H) SINCE PLANE DID NOT ACHIEVE FLIGHT AND NO DEATHS OCCURRED, DECISION ON NATURE OF INQUIRY HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE, ACCORDING TO CHELLAPPA. SEE PARA 4 BELOW.

3. EXCEPT FOR THE FIRST 3500 FEET, PALAM'S PRINCIPAL RUNWAY IS OPERATING AGAIN. THE CONTROL TOWER HAS NOTIFIED CARRIERS THAT THE ILS HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN AND VASI (VISUAL APPROACH SLOPE INDICATOR) AND APPROACH LIGHTS TO THE RUNWAY ARE NOT AVAILABLE. PROVIDED STORM CONDITIONS DO NOT DEVELOP, REGULAR COMMERCIAL FLIGHT OPERATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE, IN THE VIEW OF ONE CARRIER. OFFICIAL OF ANOTHER AIRLINE, HOWEVER, SAID DIRECTION OF WIND WOULD AFFECT RUNWAY USE.

4. CHELLAPPA WONDERED WHETHER US WOULD WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN INVESTIGATION OF WHAT WAS AN ABORTED TAKEOFF WITH NO INJURIES. HE HAS JUST FINISHED MONTHS LONG ASSOCIATION WITH DREIFUS OF NTSB IN CONNECTION WITH BOMBAY CRASH OF JANUARY 1 AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO WELCOME HIM BACK TO INDIA, HE TOLD EMBOFF. HE ASKED THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES PLEASE ADVISE HIM WHETHER THEY INTEND

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NEW DE 13141 291254Z

TO SEND TEAM.
GOHEEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE13141
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780352-0670
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780813/aaaaakqz.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 81ddf759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DOTE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1591022
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: AIR INDIA BOEING 747 ACCIDENT IN NEW DELHI
TAGS: EAIR, IN, AIR INDIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/81ddf759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014